

PATENT APPLICATION


IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The Abstract of the Disclosure is provided on a separate page for the Examiner's convenience.

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments have been made to ensure correct dependencies in the claims, and to ensure that the Examiner receives a copy of the Abstract, which was part of the publication of this PCT application. Early, favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIXVERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, before the first full paragraph, the following header was inserted:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, between the second full paragraph and the third full paragraph, the following header was inserted:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 10, before the first full paragraph, the following header was inserted:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Page 10, between the seventh full paragraph and the eighth full paragraph, the following header was inserted:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENTIN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows

6. A bridge according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the bridge includes a transfer store which stores data received at one of the ports before transferring the data to one or more of the other ports.

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7. A group of bridges comprising a number of bridges according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, the bridges being coupled via a group link which interconnects the group ports on different bridges in the group.

10. A group of bridges according to ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~claim 7, ~~when dependent on claim 5~~
wherein the STP uses a port identifier associated with each bridge port, the port identifier representing the priority of the port, and wherein the port identifier of each port in the bridge is stored in the store, and wherein the new BPDU is a group BPDU which further includes an indication of the port identifier of the bridge port at which the received BPDU was received,
wherein the port identifiers are different for each bridge port of each grouped bridge.

13. A method according to ~~claim 11 or claim 12~~, wherein the STP uses a port identifier associated with each bridge port, the port identifier representing the priority of the port, the method further comprising assigning a unique port identifier to each port in the group of bridges.

15. A method according to ~~any of claims 11 to 14~~claim 11, wherein the STP is a modified version of that defined by the IEEE 802.1D standard.

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